

Translation from Bulgarian

**CHARTER
OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC FEDERATION
CARITAS BULGARIA**

I. NAME, PURPOSES, MEANS TO ACHIEVE THEM, PRINCIPLES

- Art. 1 The National Catholic Federation CARITAS BULGARIA, hereinafter referred to as CARITAS BULGARIA, is a non-profit juridical entity – an association identifying itself in activities beneficial to the society. It is being established for an indefinite term.
- Art. 2 The headquarters of CARITAS BULGARIA are in the city of Sofia, with a management address – Oborishte District, 9 Oborishte Street, ground floor, apartment 2.
- Art. 3 CARITAS BULGARIA adopts and shares its goals with the International Catholic Confederation CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS.
- Art. 4 CARITAS BULGARIA is a charity, non-political, independent public organization working in close partnership with the Catholic Church and it develops its activities locally and internationally.
- Art. 5 CARITAS BULGARIA has the following mission:
1. To coordinate the activities of CARITAS BULGARIA member organizations.
 2. To support through its members morally and financially people that need help in cases of natural calamities and wars, the diseased and poor – the old, the orphans, the homeless, the unemployed, the neglected, etc.
 3. To sustain through its members, the moral and spiritual progress of its adherents, admirers and followers, and to protect their human rights.
 4. To support the Catholic Church in its efforts to provide for the people in need, for their integration in society and their personal accomplishment.
 5. To unify the Christian Catholic community following the principle of three virtues: love, justice and charity.
 6. To assist in overcoming the attitude of social hatred and misapprehension.
- Art. 6 The above goals will be achieved by means of:
CARITAS BULGARIA coordinates and assists its members regarding:
1. Supplying humanitarian aid whenever necessary.
 2. Establishing medical aid centers for the poor, the neglected, the orphans, the homeless, etc.
 3. Establishing a community support network active in the homes of the diseased, poor and neglected individuals, providing them with medical treatment and essentials.
 4. Establishing shelters for the homeless, providing food and medical services, where the stay is strictly regulated.
 5. Establishing shelters for rest and prevention for the poor, orphans, neglected children who are physically or mentally disabled.

6. Establishing an information network for studying the social needs of people.
 7. Developing targeted national level social programs and projects for supporting the community in accordance with the needs of specific social groups.
- Art. 7 The National Catholic Federation CARITAS BULGARIA is based on and guided by the principles of:
1. Sympathy, empathy and charity.
 2. Support for all people in need disregarding their race, nationality, gender, political outlook and religion.
 3. Cooperation with other humanitarian and charity organizations operating legitimately in the Republic of Bulgaria.

II. MEMBERSHIP. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBERS

- Art. 8 CARITAS BULGARIA will adopt as a member any Christian Catholic organization that is registered as a juridical entity, and which adopts the Charter of CARITAS BULGARIA.
- Art. 9 New members shall be accessed after supplying a request in writing to the General Assembly (National Conference). The request shall declare an approval of the Charter of CARITAS BULGARIA.
- Art. 10 The decision to access the candidate organization shall be made with a majority of 2/3 of all members.
- Art. 11 CARITAS BULGARIA members have the following responsibilities and authorities:
1. To participate in CARITAS BULGARIA management, including offering candidates for members to the other bodies of CARITAS BULGARIA as well.
 2. To participate actively in order to fulfill the goals and tasks of CARITAS BULGARIA, observing the Charter and realizing the decisions of the General Assembly (National Conference).
 3. To participate in establishing the budget of CARITAS BULGARIA and distributing the means (material and financial), which shall then be used in conformity with what was envisaged in the budget for the respective year.
 4. To pay the membership fees.
 5. To be informed about the activity of CARITAS BULGARIA.
- Art. 12 The membership to CARITAS BULGARIA shall be terminated in case the organization is terminated as a juridical entity, or after:
1. A notice in writing, supplied three months in advance via the Administrative Council to the General Assembly (National Conference), which terminates the membership to CARITAS BULGARIA.
 2. Conducting activities that contradict the Charter or undermine the authority of CARITAS BULGARIA.

III. CARITAS BULGARIA BODIES

- Art. 13 CARITAS BULGARIA bodies are:
1. The General Assembly (National Conference)
 2. Administrative Council
 3. Chairperson (President)

4. Secretariat General

Art. 14 The supreme body of CARITAS BULGARIA is the General Assembly (National Conference) of its members.

Art. 15 All member organizations participate in the General Assembly (National Conference) of CARITAS BULGARIA.

Art. 16 The General Assembly (National Conference) shall be summoned by the Administrative Council not later than the end of May each year, or by the request of one third of CARITAS BULGARIA members in the city of headquarters of CARITAS BULGARIA. An invitation in writing shall be sent to each member, at least one month before the fixed date. The invitation shall specify the agenda, the date, hour and place of conducting the general assembly and whose initiative was it to summon it. The invitation shall be published in the State Gazette at least one month before the date fixed for the General Assembly (National Conference).

Art. 17 The General Assembly (National Conference) shall be considered legitimate if 2/3 of all members are present. If there is no quorum, the conference shall be postponed for one hour at the same place, with the same agenda and can be conducted no matter how many member organizations are present, but not less than half its members.

Art. 18 The decisions shall be made with a simple majority of the present members, as everybody has the right of a single vote. In order to amend the Charter, to select a Chairperson (President), to terminate CARITAS BULGARIA, or merge it with another organization, when accessing new members and terminating a membership, a majority of 2/3 of all acknowledged member organizations is needed. Voting is open, unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly (National Conference).

Art. 19 Authorities of the General Assembly (National Conference):

1. Adopts CARITAS BULGARIA Charter, makes amendments and supplements to it and adopts other external acts of CARITAS BULGARIA.
2. Defines the main directions in the activity of CARITAS BULGARIA.
3. Adopts the regulations and the order in undertaking socially beneficial activities, and annually adopts and approves the report on these activities.
4. Adopts the order and regulations for the gratuitous expending of CARITAS BULGARIA property, as well as the selection of persons and the way that they shall be assisted.
5. Selects and dismisses the members of the Administrative Council and the Chairperson (President) of CARITAS BULGARIA. Defines their specific authorities, as long as they are not mentioned in the present Charter.
6. Approves the report of the Administrative Council.
7. Adopts the budget of CARITAS BULGARIA.
8. Accesses new members and ceases the membership after a justified proposal by the Administrative Council.
9. Makes decisions to fix the membership fee.
10. Sees to the immovable property of CARITAS BULGARIA.
11. Makes the decision to reorganize or terminate CARITAS BULGARIA.
12. Makes decisions to distribute the property left after satisfying creditors in case of liquidation.

Art. 20 The Administrative Council is elected with a 3-year mandate and comprises of three persons – Chairperson (President) and members.

Art. 21 The Administrative Council's sessions take place at least 3 times a year. It can be summoned for an extraordinary session by each of its members.

Art. 22 Authorities of the Administrative Council:

1. Carries out the overall activities of CARITAS BULGARIA on issues that are not reserved solely for the competence of the General Assembly (National Conference).
2. It is responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly (National Conference).
3. Elects the Secretary General, the form and amount of his/her remuneration.
4. Manages the property of CARITAS BULGARIA and is in charge with CARITAS BULGARIA's movable assets.
5. Coordinates the relations between the member organizations of CARITAS BULGARIA.
6. Elaborates and presents to the General Assembly (National Conference) a draft budget of CARITAS BULGARIA and undertakes an on-going monitoring of its fulfillment by selecting and providing for an audit by a Chartered Accountant.
7. Undertakes the distribution of financial and tangible aid, destined for CARITAS BULGARIA.
8. In the cases when the Chairperson (President) is away or is unable to perform his duties, the Administrative Council should authorize one of its members to undertake the representative duties of the Chairperson (President) for each specific case.
9. Elaborates and presents to the General Assembly (National Conference) well motivated proposals for undertaking economic activities.
10. Elaborates and presents to the General Assembly (National Conference) the regulations for performing activities beneficial for the society.
11. Elaborates and presents to the General Assembly (National Conference) for approval and voting a Report on the activities beneficial for the society once a year.
12. Elaborates and presents to the General Assembly (National Conference) a Report on the activities undertaken by CARITAS BULGARIA.
13. Defines the address of CARITAS BULGARIA, or changes to it.
14. Conducts liquidation when CARITAS BULGARIA is terminated.

Art. 23 The decisions of the Administrative Council shall be made with a simple majority.

Art. 24 The Chairperson (President) of the Administrative Council of CARITAS BULGARIA shall be elected for a mandate of 3 years.

Art. 25 The authorities and responsibilities of the Chairperson (President) are as follows:

1. He represents CARITAS BULGARIA.
2. He undertakes the realization of contacts with other organizations, institutions and persons both locally and internationally, with respect of achieving the goals of CARITAS BULGARIA.
3. He chairs the sessions of CARITAS BULGARIA's General Assembly (National Conference) and of the Administrative Council.
4. He schedules and presides the sessions of the Administrative Council.
5. He appoints CARITAS BULGARIA's Secretary General.

Art. 26 The day-to-day activities of CARITAS BULGARIA shall be conducted by the Secretariat General, managed by the Secretary General.

Art. 27 Authorities of the Secretary General:

1. Implements the decisions of the Administrative Council and reports to it.
2. Distributes and organizes the carrying out of the current tasks and monitors their implementation.
3. Organizes the sessions of the General Assembly (National Conference) and of the Administrative Council and participates in its sessions having advisory powers.
4. He is responsible for the accounting reporting of CARITAS BULGARIA.
5. He elaborates the annual financial report of CARITAS BULGARIA, assisting the Chartered Accountant when conducting the financial audit of the activity.
6. He makes proposals to the Administrative Council for carrying out economic activities.
7. He presents to the Administrative Council information about the carried out activities beneficial for the society, related to preparing the annual report as referred to in Article 40, Paragraph 2 of the Non-Profit Juridical Entities Act (NPJEA).
8. He concludes labor and other agreements with persons appointed by him, with the rights to establish a secretariat general and operative work teams in CARITAS BULGARIA.
9. He elaborates and presents to the Administrative Council a draft budget for CARITAS BULGARIA activities.
10. Requests annual information from the member organizations referring to their activities and financial status.
11. Manages CARITAS BULGARIA's movable assets up to a limit specified by the Administrative Council, with the right to re-authorize third parties with these authorities.

IV. PROPERTY OF CARITAS BULGARIA

Art. 28 The property of CARITAS BULGARIA serves for achieving its goals and it cannot be used to fulfill other goals, which contradict the present Charter, the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Art. 29 CARITAS BULGARIA's means shall be gathered through: subsidies, grants, testaments, aid from state and other organizations, as well as from natural and juridical entities in the country and abroad.

Art. 30 The General Assembly (National Conference) makes decisions with a majority of 2/3 of all members in relation to gratuitous expenditure of property, as referred to in Article 41, Paragraph 3 of NPJEA, as well as in order to see to the immovable property of CARITAS BULGARIA.

Art. 31 Seeing to the immovable property is executed with a decision of the Administrative Council, made with a majority of 2/3 of the members, and up to a limited amount the Administrative Council can vote for the Secretary General to see to the immovable property on his own.

V. TERMINATION AND LIQUIDATION OF CARITAS BULGARIA

Art. 32 CARITAS BULGARIA shall be terminated:

1. With a decision of the General Assembly (National Conference);
2. In all other cases envisaged by NPJEA.

Art. 33 When CARITAS BULGARIA is being terminated, liquidation is conducted by the Administrative Council.

Art. 34 The liquidator is obliged, if possible, to satisfy CARITAS BULGARIA's creditors, using the available pecuniary resources, and in case that this is not possible – through cashing down first the movable and then the immovable property of the association.

Art. 35 The property must not be transferred in any way whatsoever to:

1. the persons that were included in the composition of its bodies, or its personnel;
2. the liquidators, except for the due remuneration;
3. the spouses of the persons referred to in 1 and 2 above;
4. relatives of the persons referred to in and 2 above as follows: direct line of descent – no limitation; lateral branch – up to level four; or by marriage – up to level two inclusive;
5. juridical entities where the persons as referred to in 1-4 above are managers or they can impose or impede making certain decisions.

Art. 36 The General Assembly (National Conference) makes a decision also to deliver the property of CARITAS BULGARIA, left after satisfying the creditors when it is terminated, to the non-profit juridical entity that was appointed to conduct activities valuable to society with the same or similar non-profit goal.

VI. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. CARITAS BULGARIA holds its own seal – an international symbol of the international catholic organization Caritas Internationalis.
2. The member organizations shall comply with the present Charter the provisions of their own statutes, as long as they differ.

The present Charter has been adopted on a session of the National Conference of CARITAS BULGARIA, which was held on 30 November, 2001, in its headquarters in the city of Sofia.

On behalf of Caritas Catholic Organization in Rousse:

Mincho Petrov Minchev

On behalf of Caritas Charity Organization in Plovdiv:

Nencho Andreev Parapanov

/proxy/

On behalf of Caritas Non-Profit Association in Sofia:

Georgi Hristov Gadzhev

I, the undersigned Boyan Baev Yordanov hereby attest the correctness of the translation that I have rendered from Bulgarian into English of the document enclosed herein. The translation consists of 7 (seven) pages.

Sworn translator:

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